

11/16/63

Honorable J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Yeagley:

Reference is made to your letter dated 21 December 1962 in which you requested comments on the interest of this Agency in the activities of the Junta Revolucionaria (JURE), Directorio Revolucionario Estudiantil (DRE), Second National Front of the Escambray (SFNE), and Alpha 66.

This Agency maintains an informal working relation with the principal leaders of the JURE. Our interest in the JURE has not crystallized sufficiently to make an estimate of our future use of this organization.

The DRE is of interest to this Agency, which sponsors and supports its propaganda and intelligence collection activity directed against Cuba and selected areas in the western hemisphere. No joint military action is contemplated for the foreseeable future. The DRE has been informed that unless their paramilitary actions are specifically approved in advance by this Agency, they will be subject to preventive action and prosecution by the appropriate United States Government agencies. As the DRE is not a group under complete Agency control, the above does not insure that they will not undertake isolated paramilitary operations without prior notification.

Except for a continuing counterintelligence interest in the personnel and activity of the SFNE, this Agency has no further interest. This Agency is not in contact with the group and, in fact, maintains a "hands off" policy toward it except as counterintelligence interests dictate. The SFNE is distrusted and highly suspect in the eyes of the Cuban exile community, as was recently emphasized by the disclosure of its commander's leadership of ostensible Alpha 66 action.

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This Agency has no operational interest or contact with Alpha 66, which at present has no psychological exploitation value because of its serious discrediting in the Cuban exile community by the disclosure of the secret alliance between its leader, VECIANA, and Eloy GUTIERREZ Z. Monoyo, head of the SFNE. Under their alliance, GUTIERREZ Z. diverted Alpha 66 funds to finance SFNE paramilitary operations and ran them as ostensibly Alpha 66 activities. Similarly, the Alpha 66 combat element has no present exploitable military value because it is either identical with or heavily penetrated by the GUTIERREZ Z. action group.

The dissident element of Alpha 66 is referred to at different times as Comando L, Messing Comandado Liberty of Lomasilla, the nickname for Antonio GUSTIA del Valle, the Alpha 66 military operations officer, Comandante Pasco, the name of the place where Alpha 66 was founded, and L 66, presumably Lomasilla 66. No reliable definition of what exactly constitutes L 66 has yet been formulated. This Agency, however, is inclined to regard the Alpha 66 split as a superficial exercise, in view of the continuing presence in L 66, particularly its combat group, of Alpha 66 operational personnel, who have been and probably will remain GUTIERREZ Z.'s.

With the cessation of the interest in the DRE and an informal relation with the principal leader of the JULI as explained above, this Agency has no current or pending operational interest in any of these groups and, as stated in this Agency's letter to you of 18 September 1963, has no objection to investigation of the groups and their activities by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Identifying data on the leaders and members of the dissident element of Alpha 66, as requested in your letter of 21 December 1962, are being assembled and will be forwarded to you as soon as available.

Sincerely,

Lawrence R. Houston
General Counsel

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Orig: [Redacted]

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